

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 INR-07

L-03 /063 W

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R 122051Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8169

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 00776

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PINT, PGOV

SUBJ: LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER  
MENNELL

REF: (A) NASSAU 766 (NOTAL), (B) SAN JOSE 2252 (NOTAL)

TWO POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED:

(1) FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS. MENNEL INDICATED THAT RODNEY BAIN, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO GO TO LONDON ON MAY 20 (REF A), HAD IN FACT BEEN THERE IN APRIL AS WELL. WHILE PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO VISIT CHILDREN OVER EASTER VACATION, BAIN ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO ATTEMPT TO PRESS FORWARD WITH "PRACTICAL ASPECTS" OF DEVELOPING BAHAMIAN DEFENSE FORCE. THIS INCLUDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DISCUSSION WITH VOSPERS ON MOVING FORWARD ON PATROL BOATS. MENNEL SAID THAT IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH BAIN HE SUGGESTED THAT BAIN MIGHT BE MOVING RATHER FAST ON "PRACTICAL ASPECTS" WITHOUT HAVING FUNDS IN HAND. IN RESPONSE, BAIN EXPRESSED HIGH CONFIDENCE THAT FACILITIES AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED BY JUNE 30. MENNEL ALSO REVEALED THAT GCOB HAS SOUNDED OUT A BRITISH BANK WITH REGARD TO A ONE MILLION POUND LOAN TO COVER INITIAL DEFENSE FORCE PROCUREMENT COSTS. MENNEL EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT BANK WOULD MAKE THE LOAN IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME ASSURANCE THAT A FACILITIES AGREEMENT WOULD IN FACT BE NEGOTIATED IN THE NEAR  
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FUTURE.

(2) VESCO. I ASKED MENNELL IF HE HAD HEARD ANY RUMORS CONCERNING VESCO'S POSSIBLE RETURN TO THE BAHAMAS (REF B). MENNELL SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD SUCH A RUMOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, BUT EXPRESSED AS A PERSONAL VIEW THAT HE COULD NOT IMAGINE SUCH AN OCCURRENCE TAKING PLACE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE POLITICAL UPROAR WOULD BE TREMENDOUS. IN THE SECOND PLACE, HE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT VESCO WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NUMEROUS LOCAL SUITS. IN ANY EVENT, MENNELL DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY HARD INFORMATION AND SUCH THAT HE HAD HE TENDED TO DISCOUNT. WEISS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL FORCES, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 76 NASSAU 766  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MENNELL  
**TAGS:** MARR, PFOR, PINT, PGOV, BF, (MENNELL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006